

Message Text

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22-12

ACTION NEA-10

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SUBJ: BD PRESS SINCE DEC. 12 ON RELATIONS WITH INDIA

REF: DACCA 6261-C (A), 6208-C (B), 6156-C (C)

1. WHILE ITTEFAQ PEPPERED INDIA WITH CRITICISM, LARGELY INDIRECT, REST OF PRESS WAS EDITORIALY SILENT. WEEKLY HOLIDAY'S SILENCE PROBABLY DUE ONLY TO FACT THAT IT DID NOT APPEAR DEC. 14 (FOR BUSINESS REASONS, WE UNDERSTAND; IT'S TO REAPPEAR DEC. 21).

2. MEDIA PLAYED UP PRESIDENT SAYEM'S PLEDGE IN NATIONAL DAY EVEN ADDRESS DEC. 15 TO STRENGTHEN RELATIONS WITH COUNTRIES OF SUBCONTINENT (REFTEL B). ALSO EMPHASIZED REFERENCE TO SUBCONTINENTAL NORMALIZATION IN SOVIET-BD STATMENT ISSUED DEC. 18 (REFTEL).

3. ITTEFAQ COLUMNIST KHANDAKER ABDUR HAMID ("THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OUSPOKEN") IN DEC. 13 COMMENTARY ON BD NAVY DAY WROTE

THAT BD "HAS ALWAYS IMPLENTED ALL BORDER AGREEMENTS...
AND NEVER PROVIDED HAVEN TO INSURGENTS" AND URGED BD
AND INDIA "TO JOINTLY CURB THE MISDEEDS" OF SUCH PEOPLE.

4. ITTEFAQ EDITORIAL DEC. 16 ON NATIONAL DAY SAID:
"THE FACT THAT AN INDEPENDENT AND SOVEREIGN BENGALI NATION
EXISTS IS A CAUSE OF METAL ANGUISH AND HEART PAIN FOR
MANY...FOR THIS REASON NATION REMAINS EVER VIGILANT
AGAINST ALL CONSPIRATORS, WITHIN AND WITHOUT." ALSO
SAID BD "WILL NOT HESITATE TO ACCEPT AS FRIENDS THOSE
WHO ARE PRESENTLY EXTENDING THEIR HANDS OF COOPERATION
AND ASSISTANCE TO MAKE BD'S INDEPENDENCE MEANINGFUL"
(APPARENT REFERENCE TO PAKISTAN AND CHINA, AMONG OTHERS).

5. ITTEFAQ EDITORIAL DEC. 18 ON SAYEM'S ADDRESS SUG-
GESTED THAT "WHAT IS NEEDED AT THIS CRITICAL HOUR IS
POLITICAL SOLUTION TO THWART ANY THREAT, INTERNAL OR
EXTERNAL, TO OUR INDEPENDENCE AND SOVEREIGNTY."

6. ITTEFAQ EDITORIAL DEC. 19 SIAD NEPAL'S EFFORTS
TO BECOME SELF-RELIANT IN ECONOMIC AND DEFENSE MATTERS
"REFLECT SIMILAR DESIRE OF ALL SMALL NATIONS OF SOUTH
ASIA." THIS NEPALESE POLICY, IT JUDGED, "IS DEFINITELY
NOT PROMPTED BY ANY AGRESSIVE INTENTIONS TOWARD
NEPAL'S BIG NEIGHBOR. THE BIG NEIGHBOR KNOWS THIS TOO.
DESPITE THAT, SOME NEIGHBORS ARE OPPOSED TO SMALLER
NATIONS' EFFORTS TO PROSPER AND BECOME SELF-RELIANT."

7. THERE WERE SOME OTHER SIGNS OF THE TIMES IN PRESS
FOR THOSE WHO PAID CLOSE ATTENTION. NATIONAL DAY
SUPPLEMTNS CARRIED BY ALL DAILIES DEC. 16 CONTAINED
LONG ARTICLE HEADED "THE LIBERATION WAR AND THE ARMED
FORCES" BY " A WARTIME CORRESPONDENT" WHICH WE ARE TOLD
WAS WRITTEN THE MILITARY AND APPROVED BY GEN. ZIAUR
RAHMAN. IT REFERRED UNEMOTIONALLY TO 1971 ENEMY AS
"PAISTAN ARMY" OR PAKISTANI FORCES" RATHER THAN AS
"BUTCHERS", "MURDERERS," "BARBARIANS" OR "PERPETRATORS
OF GENOCIDE" AS IN PAST. ONLY ALLUSIONS TO INDIAN
ROLE WERE TWO BRIEF REFERENCES TO "ALLIED FORCES." WE
UNDERSTAND A SECOND ARTICLE ON LIBERATION WAR WRITTEN
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FOR SUPPLEMENTS AND SIGNED BY GEN. ZIAUR RAHMAN WAS
KILLED AFTER HE WAS PERSUADED IT WAS TOO HARSH ON
PAKISTANIS.

8. SUPPLEMENTS LEFT OUT RITUAL EXPRESSIONS OF GRATI-
TUDE FOR INDIAN AND SOVIET HELP THAT HAD BEEN CARRIED
IN PREVIOUS YEARS. THEY ALSO OMITTED FOR FIRST TIME
HISTORIC PHOTO OF PAKISTANI GEN. A.A.K. NIAZI

SURRENDERING TO INDIAN GEN. J.S. AURUORA.

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